

## **PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES**

The Mission Statement for the Houston Parks and Recreation Department is “to enhance the quality of urban life by providing safe, well-maintained parks and offering affordable programs for the community.” This mission is accomplished through the maintenance, operation and expansion of the Houston Park System. Consequently, the Department’s overall strategy for capital improvements and the use of all available funding, including bond funds, is to improve the quality of life for individual neighborhoods and the city at large.

The Department is upgrading existing parks, developing unique systems of natural waterways into a linear park system, developing and expanding existing park properties, and adding new community centers.

The FY 2007-2011 Parks and Recreation Facilities Improvement Program totals \$155 million and is funded by several funding sources. The significant funding sources include: \$25 million in authorized available bond funds; \$9.5 million in grant funds; \$76.8 million in undetermined funding as preparation for the next (2007) bond election; and \$43.5 million in resources leveraged from other agencies and/or private contributions. This five-year program continues Phase I of the Master Plan. The current 2001 Parks Master Plan is to be updated in FY2007.

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### **PARKS MASTER PLAN SUMMARY**

#### **I. Introduction**

- Completed in 2001, the Master Plan promotes redevelopment and expansions of the park system. Specifically, the focus was on the required funding and the prioritization for projects that should occur over 10-15 years.

#### **II. Overview of the Plan Development Process**

- Categorize parks by pocket, neighborhood, community, regional and metro; inventory existing City, County, and Private Facilities; establish criteria for identifying needs (demand based, standard based, and resource based); and identify gaps in the parks, facilities and services.
- Public Process – Public meetings were held in every city council district. Additionally, surveys and questionnaires were utilized. The objective was to involve the community in establishing priorities regarding renovations, land acquisitions, new park development, and construction of specific facilities – swimming pools, community centers, and/or maintenance facilities.

- Adoption by City Council was achieved on October 3, 2001.

#### **III. Master Plan Findings**

- 79 new land acquisitions with an additional 20 expansions.
- Continued implementation of the Parks-to-Standard (PTS) program;
- Continued expansion of the linear park system along our bayous;
- 68 Community, 16 Regional, and 9 Metro sized parks to accommodate sports fields;
- Addition of 10 new recreation centers; and
- Relocation of certain park maintenance facilities